



Attorney Docket No. 50325-0517

2135
Patent 41

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Group Art Unit No.: 2135

Lear, et al.

Examiner: Paula W. Klimach

Serial No.: 09/767,284

Filed on: January 22, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
SELECTIVELY ENFORCING NETWORK
SECURITY POLICIES USING GROUP
IDENTIFIERS

RECEIVED
AUG 06 2004
Technology Center 2100

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the first Office Action mailed May 24, 2004, the shortened statutory period for which runs until August 24, 2004, please reconsider the subject application in light of the remarks herein.

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. No claims have been amended, cancelled or added. Hence, Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed May 24, 2004 is addressed hereinafter.

I. ISSUES RELATING TO PRIOR ART

A. CLAIMS 1-20, AND 23-24

Claims 1-20, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Reid et al*, U.S. patent 6,182,226 (hereinafter "*Reid*") in view of *Ray et al*, U.S. patent 6,587,455 (hereinafter "*Ray*"). It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-20, and 23-24 are patentable for at least the reasons provided hereinafter.